



# News Release

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## **Walla Walla physician barred from prescribing narcotics after patient death**

**OLYMPIA** — The state Medical Commission has immediately restricted a Walla Walla physician from prescribing narcotics and some other controlled substances due to allegations that he overprescribed narcotics to his patients. One of his patients died three days after being over medicated.

Charges state that Gerald Craigg (MD00044814) prescribed a combination of high-doses of methadone, other narcotics, and benzodiazepines to multiple patients without the necessary evaluations, monitoring, or treatment plans. Craigg also didn't have enough training to prescribe the high doses of narcotics that he prescribed, and didn't get consultations from pain management experts. In the case of the patient who died, charges state that Craigg inappropriately prescribed for the patient and then provided incorrect dosing instructions to the patient's caregivers.

Craigg has 20 days to contest the restriction on his prescribing authority. He cannot prescribe Schedule II or III narcotics or Schedule IV controlled substances until the charges are resolved.

The documents can be seen online by clicking "[Look up a health care provider](#)" on the [Department of Health website](#). Copies can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That number can also be used to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The [Department of Health website](#) ([www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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